Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Rosebud Sioux Tribal Member Noah Whitebird, Sr. served the United States Army with distinction during World War II as part of the 9th Army Air Corps and 900 Signal Depot Company; and,

Whereas, The United States armed forces recognized the value and importance of communications through coded messages undecipherable by enemy combatants; and,

Whereas, Noah Whitebird, Sr. and 68 other Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Indians from South Dakota spoke a language unknown to all but a few Indians in North America and were therefore selected to serve in an elite group known as "Code Talkers" in order to ensure allied communications were not intercepted; in the process saving thousands of American lives; and,

Whereas, The brave souls known as Code Talkers have been only recently recognized in both World War I and World War II by historians, in popular culture, and by the federal government; and,

Whereas, The Code Talkers were recently honored with Congressional medals through the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 for their service, dedication, and valor; and,

Whereas, The family of Noah Whitebird, Sr. has chosen to permanently commemorate and memorialize this service and share their family legacy with the people of South Dakota by donating Noah Whitebird, Sr.'s Congressional Medal to the South Dakota State Historical Society so we, today, as well as future generations, will always remember the bravery and sacrifice of South Dakota's Code Talkers:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2016, as

NOAH WHITEBIRD, SR. – CODE TALKER DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State